

Mike Levin

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 49TH DISTRICT

2021 Progress Report



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U.S Representative Mike Levin

Dear Neighbor,

This past year has been a time of incredible progress for our community and our country. We began the year in one of the most challenging phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rate of COVID hospitalizations was at its highest point ever, and more than 10 million Americans were unemployed.

Since then, more than 200 million Americans have been fully vaccinated, we've added nearly six million jobs, and the number of Americans filing for unemployment reached its lowest point since 1969.

We still have more work to do to put COVID-19 behind us, but we've made a lot of progress thanks to the American Rescue Plan, a historic piece of legislation that provided relief to struggling families, frontline workers, and local schools and businesses. In fact, families and organizations in California's 49th District received more than \$350 million in federal relief from that bill.

My colleagues and I also passed the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's crumbling infrastructure. Along with the *Build Back Better Act*, this legislation would create 1.5 million good-paying American jobs each year while also lowering costs for working families. I'll keep fighting to reach an agreement on many of the policies included in the *Build Back Better Act*.

We have much more work to do ahead, but first, I want to share a few other highlights.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Natural Resources Committee, and Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I worked with members of both parties to introduce **31 pieces of legislation this year**, including seven bills or amendments that passed the House of Representatives, and two that were signed into law. That's on top of the **16 bills that I introduced and had signed into law during the 116th Congress**.

Also this year, my staff and I responded to more than **58,000 constituent messages** and **helped more than 1,100 constituents** with issues involving federal agencies, **saving them more than \$13,400,000 total**. Institutions in our District **received more than \$240 million** in federal grants this year, and **local small businesses received \$9.5 million** in federal aid.

I know there is much more to do in 2022, and I look forward to building on this progress.

Thank you,



Constituent Services Highlights



In our District, organizations like schools, non-profits, and research institutions received more than **\$240,827,000 in federal grants** this year.

My staff and I helped **1,113 constituents** with issues involving federal agencies, resulting in more than **\$13,486,000 returned** to them. We also responded to more than **58,000 messages** from constituents

to address their priorities, questions, and concerns.

[Here is a sample of our constituent success stories from 2021:](#)

Loraine Dowdy in San Clemente received help with a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan: "Congressman Mike Levin and staff were gracious and professional enough to assist my business in dealing with the SBA EIDL. Just when you thought all hope was lost they swooped right in and got real time results. I can honestly say every staff member I have communicated with came through with an action plan that garnered results."

James Swigart in Solana Beach received help with the Department of Labor: "I had become completely exasperated with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ... I contacted Mike Levin's office and they were extremely helpful. They contacted the Department of Labor and within weeks, I received a phone call from my benefits manager saying my pension payments will begin promptly as I had requested."

Ryan Pingree in Encinitas received help with a small business issue: "After many months of no activity on a critical business application we submitted to a federal agency, we contacted Representative Levin and asked for his help. Representative Levin and his staff acted with empathy and alacrity. His timely support and influence ensured our Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business's application did not languish any further."

Other constituent service highlights:

- Produced more than **950 certificates of recognition** to honor local individuals, organizations, and businesses for their contributions to our community.
- Nominated **37 local students to attend U.S. service academies.**

Legislative Highlights



I am proud to have **introduced 31 pieces of legislation this year** focused on our local priorities, including **20 with my Republican colleagues** and **seven that have passed** through the House.

I also had **two pieces of legislation signed into law**: my bipartisan [Training in High-demand Roles to Improve Veteran](#)

[Employment \(THRIVE\) Act](#) to improve veterans' job training and education benefits, and the [Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions \(REMOTE\) Act](#), which would protect education benefits for veterans amid the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other legislative highlights:

- Passed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) into law, which delivered more than \$350 million in federal COVID relief for families, small businesses, and others in our District.
- Passed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* into law with billions in federal funding for projects like the I-5/SR-78 Interchange, the [Coastal Rail Trail Bridge](#), the [Pacific Terrace \(Cassidy Street\) Bridge](#), and many other projects.
- Passed the *Build Back Better Act* in the House, including:
 - A provision similar to my [bill](#) prohibiting any new leasing for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas along the Southern California coast.
 - A provision similar to [my bill](#) to provide families who have children eligible for free and reduced-price school meals with an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to use over the summer break.
- Passed [legislation](#) in the House to rename the San Diego Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center after U.S. Army CPT Jennifer M. Moreno, a highly-decorated combat veteran from San Diego who was killed in action during a deployment to Afghanistan in October 2013.